

SAG NEWSLETTER

SPRINGFIELD ART GUILD

Our April guest speaker is Karen Derrico

About the Artist

Animals may not speak in real life, but for Karen Derrico they speak volumes on canvas. Using vivid colors and dimensional brush strokes in a semi-impressionistic style, Karen's talent for bringing animals to life through her art is gaining widespread recognition. Her popular painting of a baby pig on a blanket created a bidding war at a star-studded fundraiser at the Plaza Hotel in New York, and other animal art by Karen has raised thousands of dollars for animal organizations around the country.

About the Artwork

It may have started at age five with a simple box of Crayolas, but in stark technological contrast, Karen's artwork today is created exclusively with the use of advanced digital painting tools. Make no mistake, however, hers is anything but push-button artistry. Just as any traditional artist, Karen starts with a blank "canvas" and paints stroke by stroke to create her artwork, using photographs as a reference. A wireless digital paintbrush replaces a bristle brush, and archival inks are used instead of paint. Upon completion, the artwork is printed on high-grade artist canvas. Even at close range, Karen's work is nearly indistinguishable from paintings created with traditional art tools. Visit the Before & After Gallery to see the amazing transformation from original photograph to finished artwork.



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Our next meeting will be on

Wednesday April 13th -7 PM

in the Springfield Mall Community Room
6500 Springfield, VA 22150

on the lower level close to JC Penney's
<http://www.springfieldartguild.com>



WANTED: RECEPTION ARTISTS TO DEMO

Ideas for demos:

Watercolor, Collage, Quick drawing lesson, Air dry clay
What could YOU do?

For the past 2 receptions, Barb Aigen, Anne Cox, Bonnie Butler, & Lydia Jechorek have volunteered to do fingerprint art, doll making, papermaking, rock painting, medium examples, and paper bead jewelry. They have been the main attraction bringing in shoppers from the mall! While they may continue with their efforts, we need to develop a list of you, who are willing to do some of the receptions to come, so we don't burn out anyone!

We will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting, so put on your thinking cap and decide on a project YOU can do! We've found that 4 stations work very well to really draw in the public. You're being asked to demonstrate once but are more than welcome and encouraged to do so more than once. You may use the same project each time and you may choose to simply demonstrate a technique rather than have an activity that the public can do.

Materials will be provided by the guild (turn in receipt). Please make sure you get approval for your materials when you sign up. Thanks!



Important Information Please Read

In the ongoing effort to meet our expanding needs, the Board has adopted a new policy concerning participation in our gallery shows. Commencing with our May show, 'Around Town in Spring,' as a condition of exhibiting, the artists participating will be handling the details of their reception. Each person will have a choice of:

1. **Hanging/take down of the show**
2. **Bringing refreshments**
3. **Doing a demo or basic interactive project or**
4. **Setting up and clean up afterward**

Choices will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. One person, within the group, will supervise the tasks for that show only. Artists exhibiting should attend the reception as a way of representing/marketing his or her work to the public.

Springfield Art Guild Calendar

April

- 13th - Monthly Business Meeting 7:30PM
(guest speaker Karen Derrico)
- 18th - Board Meeting 7:30PM
(Springfield Mall - Community Room)

May

- 11th - Monthly Business Meeting 7:30PM

(guest speaker Sherry Smith)

- 16th - Board Meeting 7:30PM

June

- 8th - Annual Meeting and Art Competition
7:30PM
- 13th - Board Meeting 7:30PM



OUR NEW EXHIBIT VENUE

On Saturday, March 5th, a group of SAG artists met at the ENT office in Springfield of Dr. Michelle Roeser. She is a partner with a highly respected and long established ENT group with several locations. Dr. Roeser had asked our artists to display at the office to bring color and life to their location. Everyone pitched in such that 40 pieces of art were hung in two and half hours, which may well be a record!



Dr. Roeser reports that nearly every patient takes the time to view the work and comment upon it. Many business cards have been taken by the patients and visitors. The full price of each sale goes to the artist; no percentage is taken by the office.

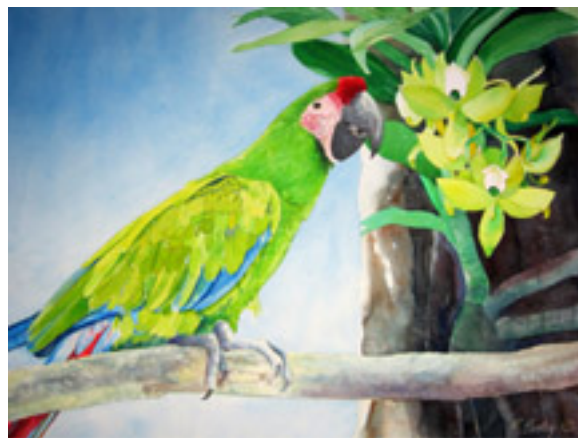
These pieces will hang until June 4, when another set will be displayed. So mark your calendar if you missed out this time or even if you have work hung. We're all about exhibiting as many members' work as we can!

ANNOUNCING A NEW INSTRUCTOR!

We are pleased to announce Kathleen Stark as a new instructor in the Community Room. She comes to us as a new member and a member of Fairfax Art League. Kathleen will be teaching 'Tapping Into Your Inner Creativity', an 8 week course starting, Tuesday, May 3 (11-1:00) beginning with drawing in colored pencil then moving on to explore other media such as collage and acrylics as alternate ways to express yourself. This is a perfect class for the beginner as well as those wishing to try other media! For more information, materials list and fee contact: landkstark@verizon.net

Welcome, Kathleen and best wishes on your endeavor!

Ruth Ensley at Green Spring Gardens



Ruth Ensley is showing her watercolor work at Green Spring Gardens in the Historic Manor House
from Feb. 28, 2011 to April 25, 2010.

The title for the exhibit is:

EXOTICS ET CETERA

Her show will consist of 27 watercolor works by our own Ruth Ensley

Ruth Ensley: rensleyart@yahoo.com

ARTISTIC DUO III

Carolyn Grossé Gawarecki
WATERCOLORS

Stephen J. Gawarecki
PHOTOGRAPHY

MARCH 1-APRIL 24, 2011

Show Hours: Noon – 4:30 PM daily

Landscape and floral watercolors by nationally recognized artist Carolyn Grossé Gawarecki will be displayed next to evocative landscapes, architectural abstracts, and still lifes by Stephen J. Gawarecki, an award-winning photographer.

**MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION IS
Sunday, March 27, 1:00 – 3:30 PM. For directions:
703-642-5173 or www.GreenSpring.org**

**Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center
4601 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312
703-642-5173 www.GreenSpring.org**



SAG Board of Directors

President: Gloria Benedetto
First Vice President: Mary Exline
Second Vice-President: Jackie Perry
Secretary: Thea Rossi Barron
Treasurer: Stan Gross
Advisory: Jeff Evans, Reginald Garrett, Lydia Jechorek

SAG Volunteers

Advisor: Judy Wengrovitz
Fairfax Gov. Center Show Chair: (TBA)
Franconia Gov. Center Show Chair: Reggie Garrett
Gmail account: Carolyn Walters
Historian: (TBA)
Hospitality: Andrea Steele and Carol Zeitlin
Librarian: Barbara Aigen
Membership: Lydia Jechorek
Newsletter: Reggie Garrett
Publicity: Mary Exline
Programing: Mary Exline
Webmaster: Reggie Garrett



ART CLASSES in BURKE

Instructor
Carol Zeitlin

Registration is now open for
"Spring Art Classes"

Drawing and Watercolor Painting
for 5-8 years, 8 years & up, Teens, and Adults in
Burke Centre on Tuesdays or Saturdays.

Chinese Brush Painting
for Teens/Adults is on Saturday.

Call the instructor, Carol Zeitlin, a SAG member, at:
(703) 250-6930 for details and registration.

Check on line:

Art Class Brochure/Registration:www.czartlessons.com

Saratoga Elementary School Art Reception



The March 6th Reception, kicking off the Saratoga Elementary School Show at the SAG Community Center at Springfield Mall was a resounding success! Well attended by student artists, their families, and walk-in guests passing by in the mall, 143 people came through our doors. Excitement filled the air as the young artists proudly pointed out their artwork hanging in the gallery to their families. Parents took photographs of their children posing in front of their art and working on art projects. A number of the parents also enjoyed trying their hand at the art projects. Another highlight was when the parents, seeing how much their children were enjoying the art projects, said they planned to sign their children up for art classes. Since youth art education and outreach is at the core of our SAG mission statement, this event provides the evidence that we are well on our way to meeting that goal.



Our thanks go out to Kelly Gilfether, contact at the mall, for announcing our event on the marquee on Loisdale and the mall website, and Kathy Wills, Saratoga art teacher, for providing the art pieces. We are grateful to our guild members who attended the reception, helping with set-up, and providing refreshments. All of these contributions were vital to making the affair such a success.



A special thanks to our members who put together the art projects for the children and families to enjoy: Barb Aigen, rock painting for all ages, making picking the perfect rock to paint an adventure; Bonnie Ferguson Butler who made hundreds of beautiful paper beads for the students to string into bracelets and necklaces; Lydia Jechorek, fingerprint art critters; and E. Anne Cox, Oshie doll making, a project she created just for this event, along with sharing the history of the dolls, to the fascination of the students and their parents. A special thank you to Peggy Nigon, art teacher for Waynewood Elementary School, for stepping in at the last minute and running one of the interactive art projects for the children.



As one father, who spent over 2 hours with his daughter at our reception, put it, "Getting to spend this time with her and watch her so enjoy herself, makes this an invaluable day to me". And that, friends, is what our receptions are all about, reaching out to the community to entertain, educate and support the citizens and their families.



Job well done!!

ART TIPS



Winsor & Newton Brush Cleaner and Restorer:

If you haven't tried this product, it will save you from throwing away your expensive brushes, if accidentally not cleaned, before the paint begins to harden. It will completely clean dried acrylics, oils, and alkyds with no damage to the brush head or loss of fibers. It can be used on natural or synthetic brushes. The cleaning solution is effective within minutes for oil colors (hours for dried acrylics), and leaves no oil residue. It's water soluble cleaner is non-toxic, biodegradable, non-flammable, and has low

vapor. Pour a little in a glass jar and seal when not using. One bottle should last you over a year.

Here are some great tips for the care and cleaning of your brushes from **Winsor & Newton:**

<http://www.winsornewton.com/products/brushes/care-and-cleaning-of-brushes/>

Exhibit: Manassas Railway Festival June 4, 2011



About the event:

The Rail Fest is a celebration of Manassas' rich railroad history, featuring full-size rail cars, model railroads, railway history, folklore and memorabilia, live entertainment, and more. This festival always draws large, enthusiastic crowds.

We are seeking artists to exhibit work during this festival. All work to be exhibited must relate somehow to the theme of trains, railways, model railroads, etc.

Rules & Regs

- Deadline to enter: May 14, 2011.
- Entry fee: \$10 per member artist, \$20 per non-member artist.
- Commission on sales: 15%.
- Volunteerism: Help is needed watching the exhibit. See entry form.
- What you may enter:
 - Art (including photography) with images related to trains and railways.
 - Original art, and reproductions from your originals. Any media, as long as it can hang on our display stands.
 - This is a family event; please use judgement in selecting works for exhibit. The organizers reserve the right to reject any work which does not meet standards for content, framing, or purpose of the show.
- How many works you can exhibit:
 - up to 5 framed works. Maximum size: height/width, 30"; depth, 4"; weight, 25 lbs.
 - up to 10 shrinkwrapped works, same dimensions
 - up to 15 notecard or notecard packs
- Labelling: Each artist must submit a complete inventory list. Also, all pieces must be labeled with artist's name, title of work and price. MAG price tags will be available at the show for this purpose; allow yourself time to fill them out.
- Location of Exhibit: We will have a booth near the train station, exact location TBA.
- Receiving: Saturday, June 4, 7:30 a.m. Art will not be accepted after 8:00 a.m.
- Show time: Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Pick up: 4 p.m. A storage fee of \$10/day will be charged for work not picked up.
- To enter: Send completed entry form to: RailFest, c/o MAG, P.O. Box 3565, Manassas, VA 20108.
- For more info: Contact Michele Frantz at 703-791-5767, myarcadia@juno.com.

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A Collage Memoir

By Stephanie Bianco

What if you were beginning again? Well, babies get to start us anew, and for me they make me look back, too. A new grandchild is coming!

I invite you to choose an occasion in your life—or just your life so far—for which you might like to make a memoir! Here’s how I did this one, which I gave to my daughter at her baby shower recently:

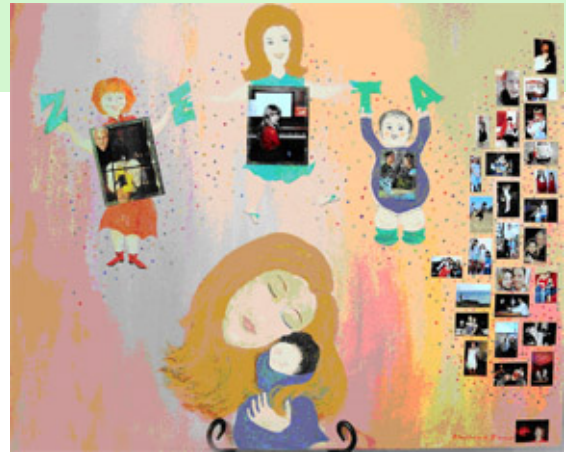
First I painted a background on an 18 x 24 canvas. I enjoy painting my “signature” varied colors you see here—blending them like rainbow shades makes me feel exuberant and zone in to my intuition—and then I thought a while what to do next. I did not plan this out, but worked intuitively.

“Okay,” I thought, “I see how to add Gina and her baby.” I painted them “dreaming” with closed eyes under rainbow hues of pale color. I did their faces over several times. Poetic license also allowed me to deploy the purple and glitter acrylic paints I love.

Even though all of this is whimsical, I wanted it to be, well, recognizable :--). Since Gina loved playing the piano as a child, I knew I might include this idea somehow into the memoir. Yes! Photos into the bodies! At length I chose some for myself (left) Gina (center) and baby Zeta, whose girl’s name was already certain thanks to the twenty first century magic of four dimensional sonography.

Since Gina came into life through my husband Larry and me, my body sports a recent picture we like of us as we looked upwards into an elevator’s mirrored ceiling. Let’s say the mirror symbolizes reflection, future, past? Gina’s inner pianist seemed perfect for her memoir body, and photos of the baby’s parents above one of a water nymph stepping off into the lake went into the body of our whimsical child. To me the nymph’s symbology implies the imminent plunge into an unknown world.

“Mmm, decidedly off center now,” I mused. I cured that with a flurry of tiny photos from Gina’s childhood and the few I had of Zeta’s dad Odie. He’s a singer songwriter. Four views grouped at the bottom are concerning this activity, which they choose to include prominently in Zeta’s future.



Then that’s one of me, at the far bottom edge, next to my signature. Hey, I want to figure prominently in her life, too.

I added joyful polka dots to bring a unifying element to the various pieces of the composition. Did it work?

Obviously you will go about your memoir to suit your own style and occasion. Do you want to include photos? Here’s how I did it technically: I scanned into “My Pictures” the particular prints I wanted to include, making each a file. I saved them as “thumbnails” and placed them in their own folder. Then I selected them as a group by left clicking with my cursor over all the picture choices at once. When selected this way, a choice for “print” appears along the top of my computer screen. From the print menu I chose the “contact sheet” size. This allowed me to print up to 35 on a single page. Epson Four Star glossy photo paper went into my printer, the results got cut with scissors, and Mod Podge applied to both photo back and canvas surface glued them on. It was a hit at the baby shower!

When you have made an artistic memoir your way, I’d be delighted to have you describe your method and show off your result in a future article. Please contact me at sbianco@hotmail.com and put SAG in the subject line.



Five pound, nine ounce, Zeta arrived on Sunday March 20th.

CALL FOR ARTISTS - EXHIBITS NOW SEEKING SUBMISSIONS



The Manassas Art Guild is seeking artists who would like to exhibit their work in several upcoming art shows. Currently the Guild has openings for three exhibits, taking place this spring and summer. Works in all media, including photography, are eligible for entry.

The first exhibit, eARTh, is on April 23; the theme for this exhibit is artwork which celebrates the natural world (animals, landscapes, recycled art, etc.) In June, the Guild will be hosting a booth at the Manassas Railway Festival; artists are invited to submit work which relates to trains and railways. And in July, the Guild is sponsoring “Remains to be Scene: Artists and Virginia’s Historic Places,” an exhibit and competition timed to coincide with the events surrounding the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

A fourth exhibit, the Guild’s annual “Paint! Manassas,” is being scheduled for the fall; details will be available later this spring.

The deadline to enter the “eARTh” exhibit is April 9, with deadlines for the other exhibits to follow. Artist can find details and entry forms on the Guild’s website, www.manassasartguild.org, or call 571/377-1782 to leave a voicemail message.

The Manassas Art Guild is a not-for profit organization which seeks to build and maintain a visible and active visual arts community in Manassas and beyond.

Contact Michele Frantz at, 703-791-5767, myarcadia@juno.com.



The Kingstowne Area Artists Association SHOWING APRIL 2011 IN THE SAG COMMUNITY ROOM



The Kingstowne Area Artists Association will present an Art Show in the Springfield Art Guild Community room. The show will feature work by the members of KAAA and will run the full month of April.

A reception will be held on
Sunday, April 3rd from 2-4pm
Light refreshments will be served.

Members of KAAA will be on hand to answer questions about their art.

Join us for this FREE open door event.

Located in the Springfield Mall Community Room
6500 Springfield, VA 22150
on the lower level close to JC Penney’s

Learn more about The Kingstowne Area Artists Association at:
<http://kingstowneartists.com/>

SAG ARTIST OF THE MONTH IS RUTH ENSLEY

The subject matter for my watercolors comes from Costa Rica where I lived for almost 5 years. The lush greens of tropical foliage and the bright colors of exotic birds and flowers present endless design and painting possibilities. I particularly enjoy combining orchids and parrots within the same composition. Painting beautiful transparencies and showing numerous textures that one might see in a cloud forest or a rain forest is a very satisfying challenge for me.

I graduated from Fairleigh Dickenson University with a Fine Arts Degree, majoring in Art, and a Bachelor of Science in Art Education. Between 1960 and 1968 I also attended Ashland University, Oberland College, The Cleveland Institute of Art, Carnegie Institute of Technology then furthered my studies at Newark State and Montclair State. I started teaching and exhibiting my art in 1965 in northern New Jersey. In 1966 I married and continued teaching and exhibiting my paintings in 7 different countries: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Madagascar, Mexico, Honduras, Paraguay, and Costa Rica. I have professionally worked in various medias: Collage, Photography, Batik, Jewelry, Mixed Media and Watercolor. Throughout the years, my work has received numerous awards and it is found in private, public and corporate collections. While in Costa Rica some of my watercolor images were used to make money for the Costa Rican National Parks. For more information see my listing on the SAG GALLERY web site page.

Last September, 2010 I joined the Springfield Art Guild and started exhibiting once again, entering the Springfield Art Guild juried show at Green Spring Gardens. I received an honorable mention. I then joined the Vienna Arts Society and was juried into the Treasury of the Arts Show. My paintings can be found in the Vienna Arts Society Gallery in Vienna, Virginia, and they have been in various shows with the Springfield Art Guild.

Currently, I am having a solo exhibit of 27 watercolors in the Historic Manor House at Green Spring Gardens entitled: **EXOTICS ET CETERA**. The exhibit consists of numerous orchids with a few parrots and other tropical plants. The exhibit will be on display till April 25th.

The month of August, I will be having an exhibit in the Vienna Arts Society Art Center entitled: **BIRDS OF A FEATHER**. This exhibit will contain approximately 25 watercolors of Parrots, Macaws and Toucans.

Ruth Ensley: rensleyart@yahoo.com



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Open to all artists

2ND ANNUAL PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

2ND ANNUAL FALLS CHURCH PLEIN AIR
FESTIVAL, "SCENES IN THE CITY,"
APRIL 30 THROUGH MAY 28



Artists will paint and draw streetscapes, parks, gardens, and who knows what else in Falls Church City in May! FCA is sponsoring its 2nd annual Plein Air Festival, "Scenes in the City," with judging and an

awards ceremony at City Hall grounds, Saturday, May 28. Cash and other prizes. Selected works will be exhibited in City Hall from June 1 through 24.

Festival Schedule

April 30 through May 28

- Artists get "supports" (canvas, paper, etc.) stamped on the back with FCA festival stamp for \$10 each
- Artists paint and draw scenes in Falls Church City locales.

Saturday, May 29

Plein Air Day, City Hall grounds

- Exhibition of festival works, 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- Awards ceremony, 3:00 pm

May 30 – June 24

The "Scenes in the City" Plein Air Festival exhibit hangs in Falls Church City Hall (G-level), Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

Get details about participation in the festival, stamping opportunities, and entry forms.

[Click Here!](#)

<http://fallschurcharts.org/?p=1712/>



Box 221
Springfield, VA 22150



The Springfield Art Guild is supported in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County from funds provided by Fairfax County